

RHIC&AGS UEC Meeting Minutes
March 12, 2004

On-site: Peter Bond, Brant Johnson, Vicki Greene, Tom Ludlam, Mike Sivertz,
Angela Melocoton, Carol Scarlett, and Mercy Baez

Telephone: Steve Pate

1. Users' Meeting at BNL (Brant) – Review agenda for meeting (see slides). We decided to add talks from NASA and RSVP (NSF HEP?) funding agencies in addition to Dennis Kovar (DOE Nuclear) and Brad Keister (NSF Nuclear). The extensive list of workshops is nearly complete, but some changes may still be forthcoming. Brant raised an interesting dilemma – some of the workshop organizers are not members of the Users' group and so have not been receiving the appropriate notices. How do we keep them in the loop? Problem to be solved by the Users' Center?

Elections will be held at this meeting. Rather than convene a separate nominating committee, Vicki will solicit all members of the UEC for suggestions. As a reminder, it was suggested during the last election that we should have a slate of candidates that reflects the international composition of the Users' community. Brant suggested that the slate of candidates should consist of all nominees and that the Chair and UEC should not narrow the list as is traditional. Peter pointed out that this increases the probability that the chair would not be elected by a majority vote. Vicki, remembering past problematic elections, was also concerned about this. A final decision was deferred until a slate of candidates is chosen.

The poster theme (The New State of User Matters) suggested by Brant was accepted. Vicki's mockup of a poster showing the Galle (aka "Happy Face") crater on Mars was shown. The organizers will add the actual agenda items and replace the pseudo ones. The image will be reflected so that the "tandem" will point to the right. If possible, the image will be given a pale red "Mars" tint and the letters will be dark (red?). It will go to graphics arts and is expected to emerge in 2-3 weeks.

The poster will be distributed in PDF format to the user mailing list and hard copy sent to collaborating institutions. (Who will make sure this happens?)

2. Mike Sivertz gave an update on the visa issue (see slides). Release of the new FVA order is 2 weeks overdue. Apparently it is being held up by Counterintelligence, who opposes some of the changes desired by DOE. Not a good sign. Mike suggested that one or more members of the UEC (chair?) should travel to DC with the large FNAL and SLAC contingent slated to go there at the end of the month. Peter thought that they were going to focus on HEP funding issues rather than visa issues. Vicki will contact the chair of the FNAL UEC to clarify this.

3. Vicki presented plans for the Users' meeting at the "April" APS meeting (see slides). This is probably a good opportunity to reach out to the RSVP community since this meeting traditionally draws a lot of HEP physicists. Also, the abstract deadline was during QM'04 and there are probably not as many RHIC abstracts as usual. Some possible (and admittedly boring if instructive) presentation topics were presented by your chair. They were mercifully replaced by excellent suggestions from Carol, Mike, Peter, and others:
 - a. Overview of the upcoming BNL Users' Meeting
 - b. Overview of RSVP ("Never assume that everybody knows everything"-TL) including recent good news.
 - c. Long range plan.
 - d. Really new topics – Neutrino workshop, dark matter (Sam Aronson possible speaker)
 - e. Report on DC visit if appropriate.

We have an abundance of riches. Vicki can do (a) definitely; perhaps (c) if no other person is available. We need suggestions for a speaker for (b).

4. Carol presented a brief report on the Thesis Award. There are three probable submissions to date. The winners will be given to Susan on April 26th and the awards presented by Tom Kirk at the Users' meeting on May 12. At this point, the discussion (primarily between Carol and Steve) suffered from a large number of dial tones generated by PHENIX conveners looking for their Friday meeting. All that I gleaned from this phase of the discussion was that Steve would like e-submissions (not too likely) and a g-2 thesis to read (probable).
5. Steve gave notice that he will distribute the report on the quality-of-life survey. (Note: this appeared on the list almost immediately after the meeting.)